

REMARKS

Entry of this Communication in response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007, the response time to which has been extended by concurrently filing a request for a one-month extension of time and fee, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated May 4, 2007, a new Declaration and Power of Attorney has been required. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b). Claims 4-6, 9, 41 and 53 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Claims 34, 52 and 54 are deemed allowable if rewritten to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For the reasons set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4-6, 9, 41 and 53 include features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited reference for the reasons posed by the Examiner. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 34, 52 and 54 have been amended to include all of the features of the respective base claim and any intervening claims. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 34, 52 and 54 is in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102b, the Examiner contends that the cited reference entitled "DecisionRoom" teaches all of the features of the claimed invention.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the purpose of "DecisionRoom", as set forth on pages 5 and 9 of this reference, is to present proposals, estimates, schedules and creative content online and to get immediate feedback from customers. This tool is not intended nor configured for overall management and resolution of a complex issue. It is more of an information gathering device with minimal organizational tools other than the ability to deal with large amounts of information and data.

The collaboration center in Applicant's invention as defined in claim 1 and claims 2 and 3 depending therefrom, provides a computerized place for organizing, displaying and updating status on a project issue. Applicant's collaboration center summarizes, organizes, manages and displays all the pertinent information for a project issue relating to a collaboration in one centralized area. It does so by providing a leader and at least one of a collaboration summary, a collaboration status and a collaboration status statement.

The leader can update the high level summarization so that users may quickly receive a sustained and meaningful status and without clicking through the abundance of information, most of which is not pertinent to their perspective or interest in the project issue.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that since "DecisionRoom" lacks a collaboration center having the features set forth in claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 which depend therefrom, and, further, lacks any teaching of a project issue leader for resolving a project issue in a collaboration, it is respectfully submitted that "DecisionRoom" fails to anticipate all of the features of Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1-3.

With specific regard to Applicant's invention as set forth in claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that the cited "DecisionRoom" reference teaches only the concept of allowing authorized individuals to perform review, but not to change data or interact with other authorized individuals as set forth by the Applicant. In "DecisionRoom", an authorized individual can review a statement made as the first base note in a discussion thread and comment on that note as well as others embedded in this string. However, "DecisionRoom" does not provide for a central, consolidating, summarized and leader managed view of the topic as set forth by the Applicant in claim 2.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner contends that "DecisionRoom" teaches the capability for notification of all authorized individuals in a change in the

collaboration since "DecisionRoom" teaches using Lotus notes, a commercially available email application.

However, it is respectfully submitted that "DecisionRoom" is devoid of any such teaching or functionality of notification of all authorized individuals of a change in the collaboration. "DecisionRoom" only has the functionality of passive notification and not active notification, wherein an authorized individual must review all of the comments in the discussion thread to determine any change in the purpose, etc., of the collaboration. "DecisionRoom" provides for a "latest updates" section where all of the additional threaded notes that were added since the time of the individual's last login are displayed, but does not provide for any active notification of a change in any of the collaboration parameters.

While Lotus notes does provide email capability in "DecisionRoom" there is no teaching, suggestion or functionality for having the collaboration center notify all authorized individuals of the change in at least one of the collaboration parameters. "DecisionRoom" only provides a passive display, not active notification. It provides for a "latest updates" section where all of the additional threaded notes that were added since the time of the individuals last login are displayed, but does not provide for active notification to each individual when such a change appears or is added to the collaboration parameter, which the Examiner rejects under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

With respect to claims 4-6, 9, 41 and 53, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that "DecisionRoom" was capable of being used by a team leader to solicit notes from authorized team members to make an educated decision.

However, it is respectfully submitted that "DecisionRoom" does not have any functionality to determine or select a leader of a particular topic. In "DecisionRoom", the person who hosts a discussion thread is named as the author only. However, this person cannot interact with the software as a leader of the topic as can the

leader can in Applicant's collaboration center. That is, in Applicant's collaboration center, the leader can post status and status summaries of the collaboration issue.

While team leaders are used in business, there is no teaching or suggestion in "DecisionRoom" of selecting and enabling a leader to update and post collaboration summaries in the collaboration center on a project issue without using Applicant's own invention as a teaching for such a modification.

Nor is Applicant's invention obvious under any permissible standard since there is no teaching or suggestion in "DecisionRoom" that would allow for a leader to interact in a collaboration center as set forth by the Applicant in claim 1, from which claims 4-6, 9, 41 and 53 depend.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 4-6, 9, 41 and 53 is not rendered obvious by the cited reference for the reasons posed by the Examiner.

With respect to claim 5, it is submitted that "DecisionRoom" lacks any teaching or capability for displaying and maintaining the status of any collaboration. It only provides notice of authorized individuals comments on the collaboration issue as a threaded string of notes. "DecisionRoom" is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of providing any type of status or summary information.

With respect to claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention includes features which are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. "DecisionRoom" provides only for browser enabled access of individuals to the software to add additional comments in the threaded discussion notes as threaded discussion notes. "DecisionRoom" lacks any automatic documentation concerning any threaded discussion note added by an individual in the appropriate information module and updating the information in the appropriate module. "DecisionRoom" is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of information updating in response to an email interaction

between authorized individuals and the information modules as set forth by the Applicant in claim 9.

With respect to claim 41, the Examiner rejects "DecisionRoom" on the basis that "DecisionRoom" teaches the use of Lotus notes which has the capability of note pads provided to users.

However, Applicant defines in claim 41 the provision of an electronic note pad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project, and to attach the personal notes to the items of information.

The notes in Applicant's invention in each electronic note pad for each authorized individual are attached to the item of information in the network relating to the project. This means that there is a direct link and integration between the item of information and the note. Functionally, this provides the individual with the ability to make personal comments, meeting minutes, reminders, to-do lists, etc., about a specific item of information and to retrieve that note by interacting with the item of information.

Conversely, Lotus notes defines "a Personal Journal database as a place for you to store private documents you do not want to share with others. You can use the Personal Journal as a diary, a notebook, or even as a holding place to compose documents before they are ready for distribution." The Personal Journal notes are not linked, integrated or associated with other items of information. Rather these notes are deposited into a central discrete holding place provided to an individual, with the individual having access only to the notes and not to other items of information. Thus, Lotus notes lacks the functionality of Applicant's invention defined in claim 41.

With respect to claim 53, the Examiner contends that "DecisionRoom" teaches the capability for defining by a project leader a plurality of organizational categories, and specifying the name of at least one authorized individual as the request to recipient for each defined organizational category.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of these steps.

“DecisionRoom” only teaches the method of threaded discussion forum as its only method to review information. “DecisionRoom” does not teach an organized approach where a project leader first determines the pertinent organizational categories for the project and designates the appropriate individual who will receive all of the requests related to each organizational category as the first recipient of each request. “DecisionRoom” instead requires individuals to search the various discussion threads for items, questions or requests that they may need to answer or comply with.

In Applicant’s invention, once the leader has designated the organizational categories and the first request recipient in each category, all requests by any individual are automatically and actively routed to this first request recipient as the appropriate person to receive and respond to it. This first request recipient therefore does not have to first actively search through all of the discussion threads and, second, to determine that the discussion thread comments for them should they be actually successful in finding any such request.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant’s invention as set forth in claim 53 patentably defines over the cited reference for the reasons set forth above.

New claim 55 is also submitted to patentably define over the cited reference in view of its dependency from claim 1 and, thereby, for the reasons set forth above to respective patentability of Applicant’s invention defined in claim 1 over the cited reference.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant submits a new signed Declaration.

In summary, for the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that Applicant’s invention as set forth in the claims includes features which are not

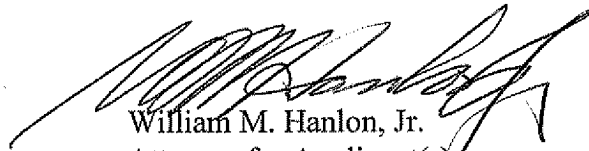
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anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited reference on the grounds posed by the Examiner. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 9, 41, 53 and 55 are condition for allowance along with previously objected to, but allowable claims 34, 52 and 54.

Respectfully submitted,

Young, Basile, Hanlon, MacFarlane,
& Helmholdt, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William M. Hanlon, Jr.', is written over the typed name and title.

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